



Understanding and Serving the Needs of Crossover Youth

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**The National Technical
Assistance Center**
for the Education of
Neglected or Delinquent
Children and Youth (NDTAC)

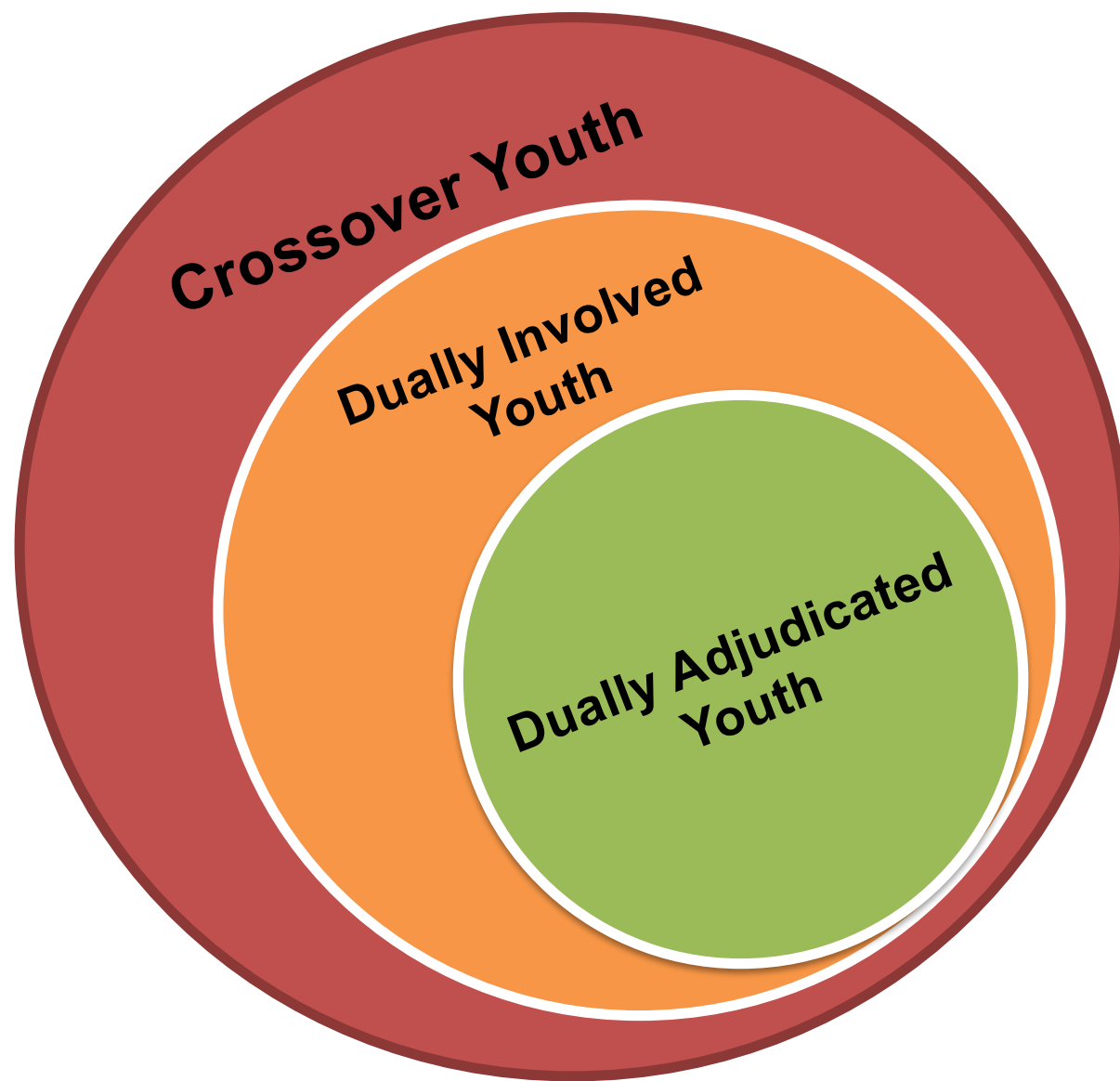


neglected-delinquent.ed.gov

Objectives

- Discuss who “crossover youth” are and the pathways they travel.
- Explore the characteristics of this population.
- Highlight the challenges systems face in meeting their needs.
- Discuss recommendations to better support this population in your jurisdiction.

Crossover Youth: Definitions



Defining Youth

A youth is considered “at risk” if he/she has the following characteristics:

- Has experienced or is at risk of academic failure.
- Has had or currently has a dependency or delinquency adjudication.
- Has a drug problem.
- Is pregnant or is a parent.
- Has had contact with juvenile justice or child welfare agencies (in the past year).
- Is at least one year behind expected grade level.
- Is an English learner.
- Has been or is a gang member.
- Has dropped out of school in the past.
- Has a high absenteeism rate at school.

Crossover Youth and Youth at Risk

Crossover Youth

- Victim of abuse or neglect
- Engaged in delinquency
- Only guaranteed system connection—Education

Youth at Risk

- Academic failure
- Substance abuse issues
- Pregnant or a parent
- One year behind grade level
- Gang member
- English learner
- Dropped out of school in the past
- High absentee rate

Crossover Youth Pathways

Child Welfare →
Juvenile Justice

Pathway 1: Open child welfare case with subsequent delinquency referral or arrest

Pathway 2: Previous but not current child welfare case at time of new delinquency referral or arrest

Pathway 3: Upon juvenile justice investigation after delinquency occurs, maltreatment discovered → referral to child welfare

Pathway 4: Term of detention or correctional placement ends, but no home or safe home to return to → referral to child welfare

Juvenile Justice
→ Child Welfare

Defining Institution for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected or Delinquent

- A public or private residential facility, other than a foster home, that is operated for the care of children who have been committed to the institution or voluntarily placed in the institution (i.e. group home, residential treatment facility).
- A public or private residential facility for the care of children who have been adjudicated delinquent or in need of supervision.

Who Are the Youth Who Cross Over Into Delinquency?

Demographics

- Increased likelihood of being female
- More likely to be African American
- Younger at the age of their first arrest than youth not involved in child welfare

Experiences with Abuse/Neglect and the Child Welfare System

- Persistent or adolescent maltreatment alone
- Type of maltreatment
- Type and number of placements
- Absence of positive attachments

Characteristics of Crossover Youth

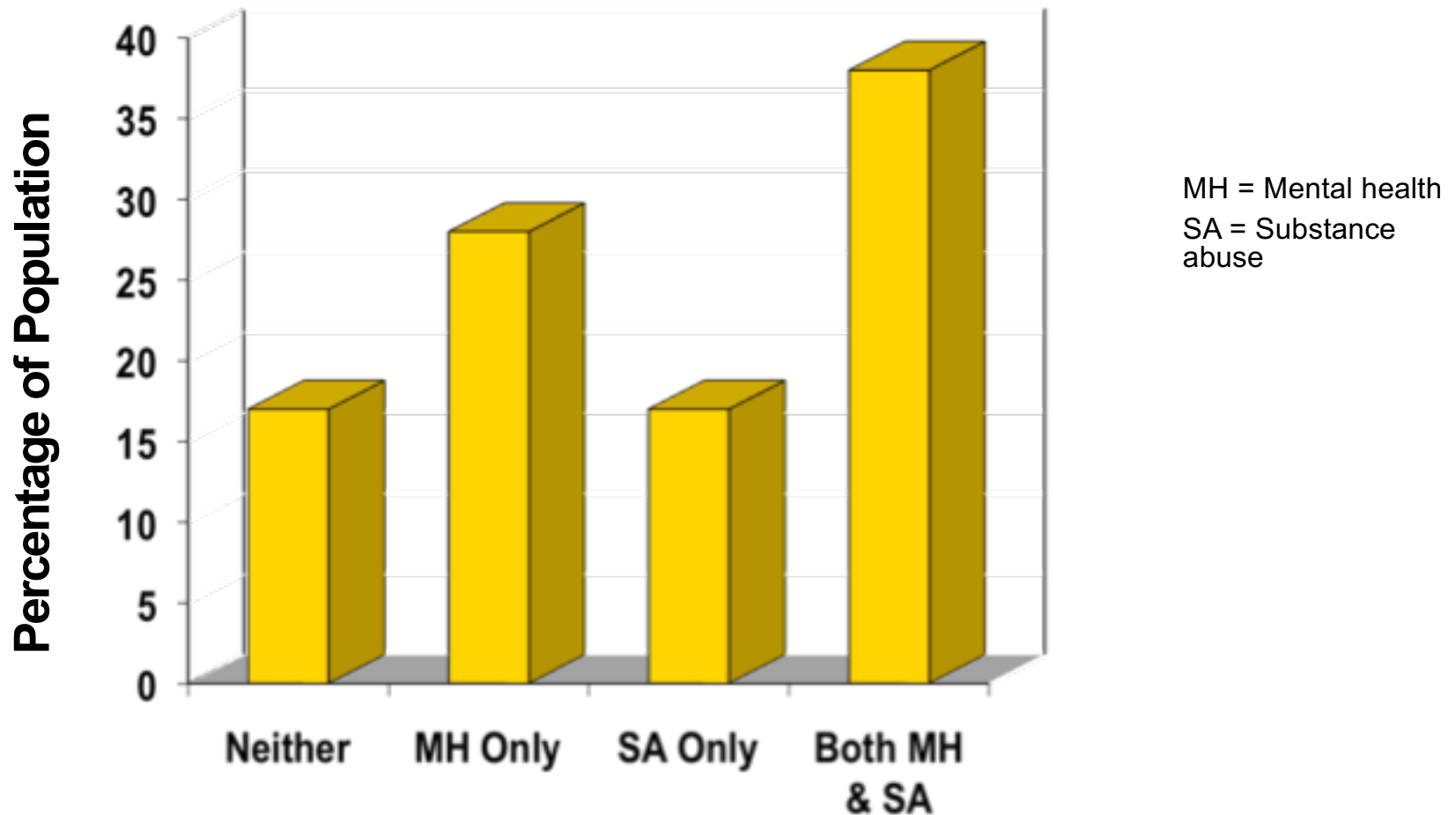
Individual Characteristics

- Truancy, dropout, and pushed out.
- Special education issues may or may not have been identified.
- Parents and youth with history of mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence, and/or criminal behavior.

Juvenile Justice Involvement

- Less than half charged with violent offenses.
- One-quarter to one-half detained at the time of arrest.
- Prior contact with the system for previous delinquent, criminal, or status offense charges.

Characteristics: Mental Health and Substance Abuse Issues



Characteristics: Education Challenges

Youth involved with child welfare: higher risk

- Lower grade point average
- Missing school
- Repeating grades
- Experiencing behavior problems
- Involved in special education programs

(Romano, Babchishin, Marquis, & Frechette, 2014; Stone, 2007)

Youth involved with juvenile justice: higher risk

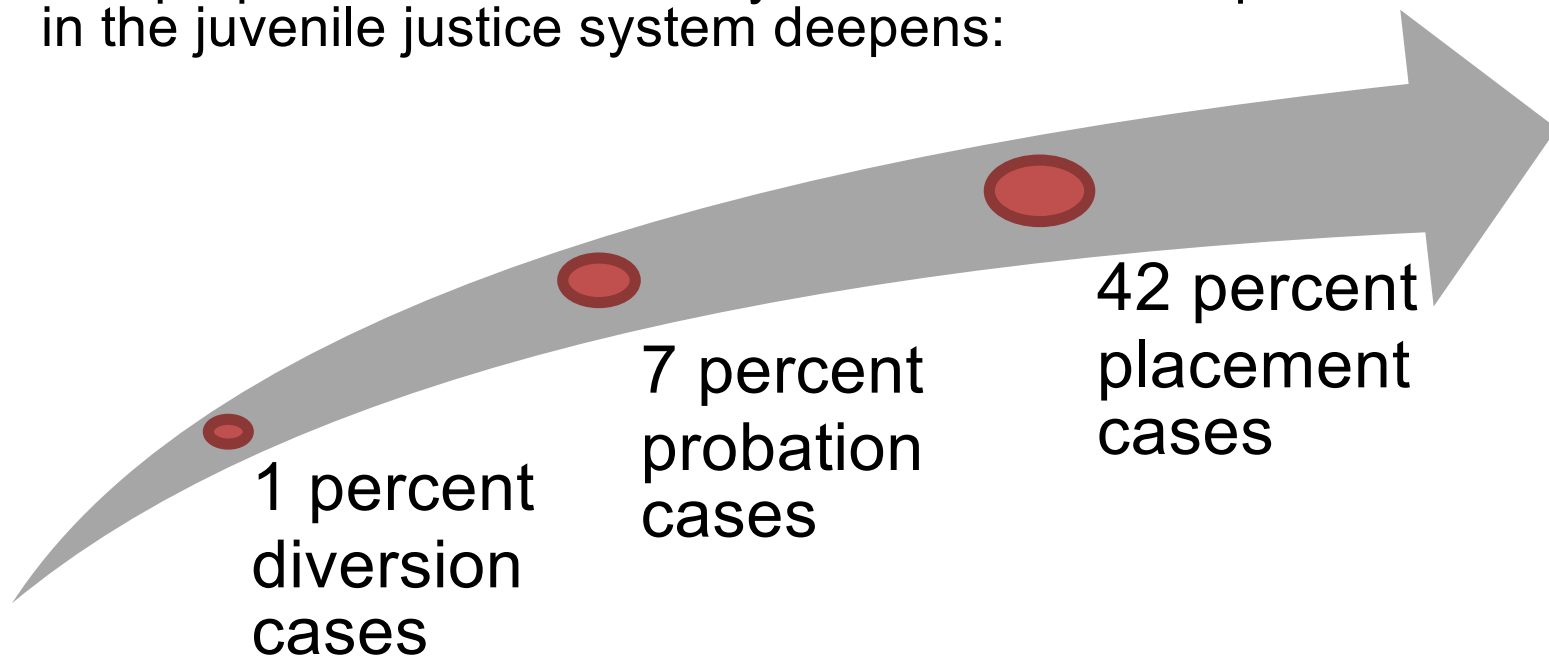
- Reduced educational attainment compared with their nondelinquent peers
- Youth who have been incarcerated exhibit both “substantially lower high school completion rates and higher adult incarceration rates”

(Aizer & Doyle, 2015; Tanner, Davies & O’Grady, 1999)

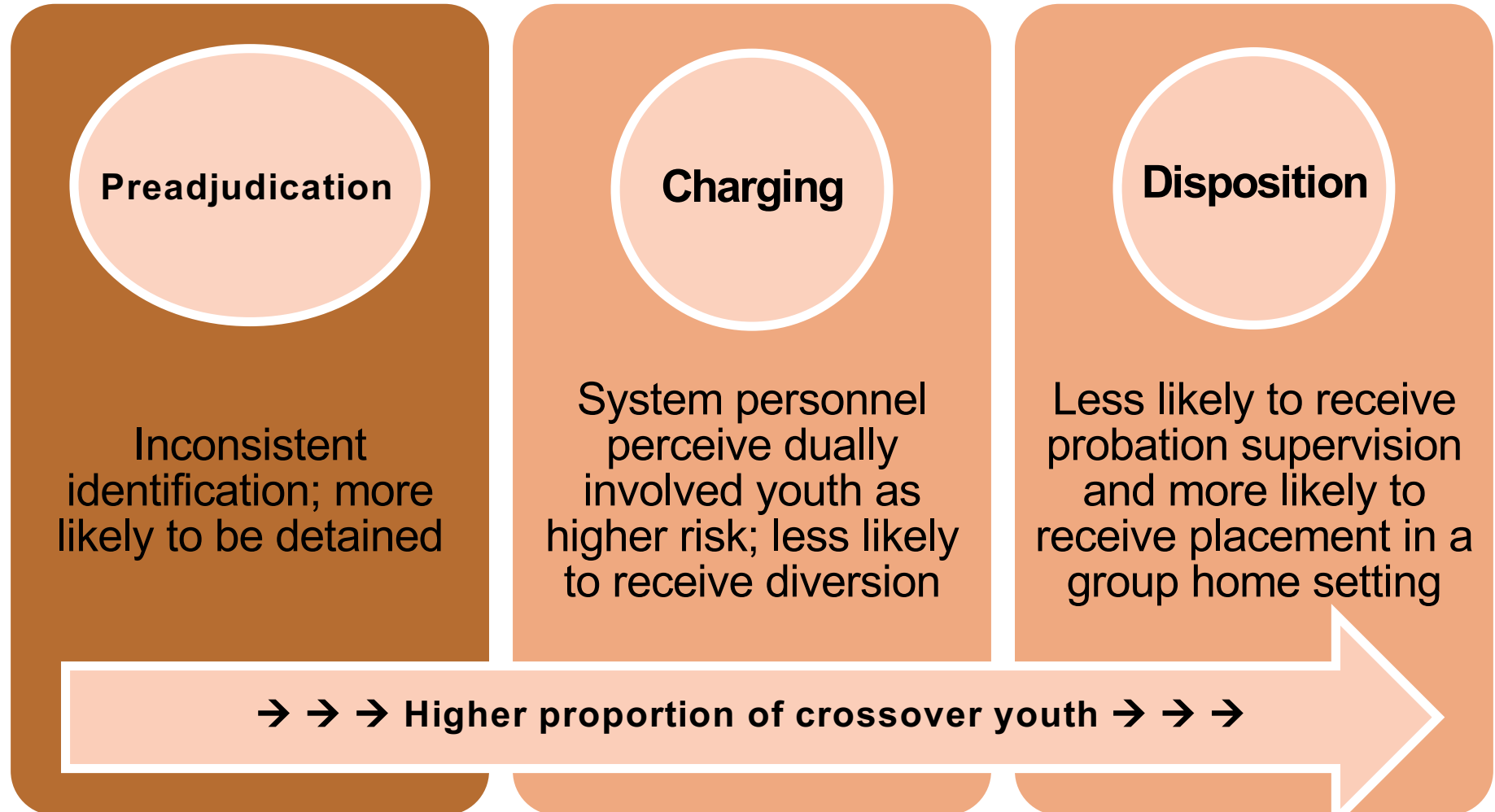
Crossover youth likely experience educational difficulties, need educational services, drop out of school, and have mental or behavioral health issues that impact school performance (Gonsoulin & Read, 2011; Leone & Weinberg, 2012).

Prevalence

- Studies estimate that between 10 percent and 29 percent of child welfare–involved youth have contact with the juvenile justice system
- Most maltreated youth do not have official records and do not self-report delinquency.
- The proportion of crossover youth increases as penetration in the juvenile justice system deepens:



Experiences in the Juvenile Justice System



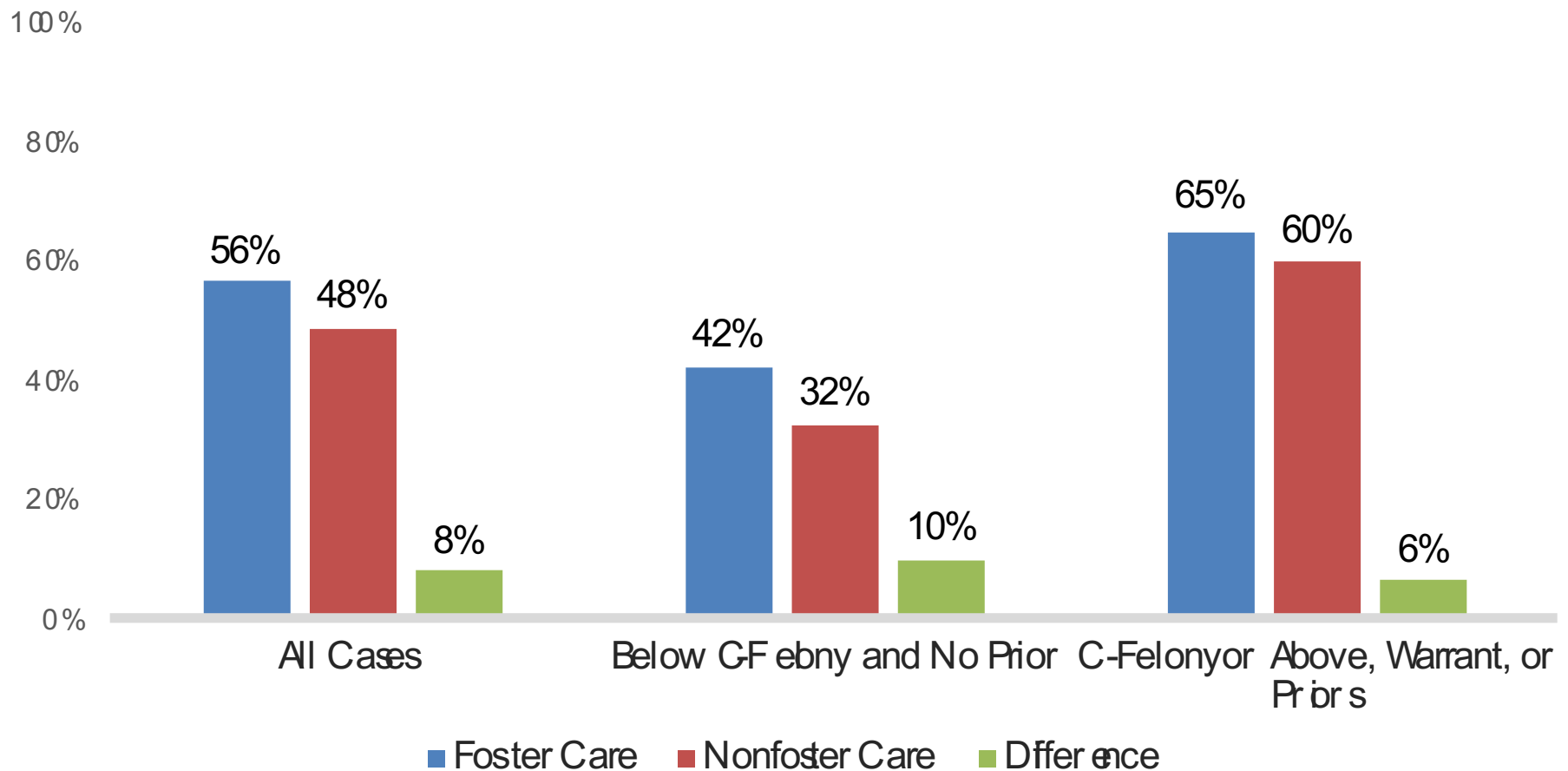
Characteristics: Preadjudication Detention

Crossover youth are more likely to be detained preadjudication. Two hypotheses for this:

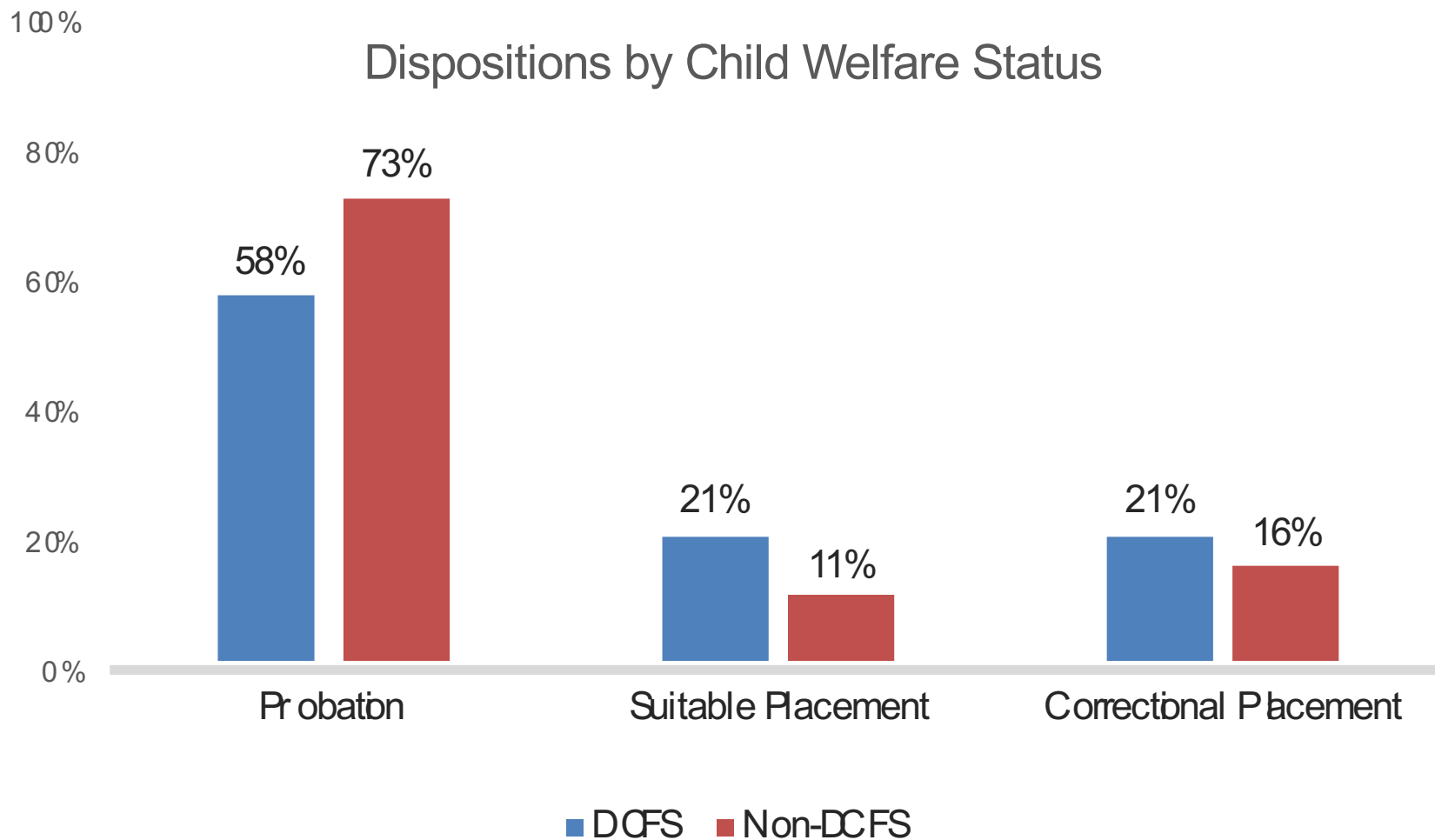
1. Lack of communication means that juvenile justice does not know where to release the youth.
2. Placement providers refuse to allow the youth home preadjudication.

Characteristics: Preadjudication Detention

Adjusted Probability of Detention
for Foster and Non-Foster Juveniles



Characteristics: Juvenile Justice Processing



System Challenges to Improve Outcomes for Youth

Information Sharing

- Interpretation of the laws
- Err on the side of “caution”
- Misunderstanding of systems function

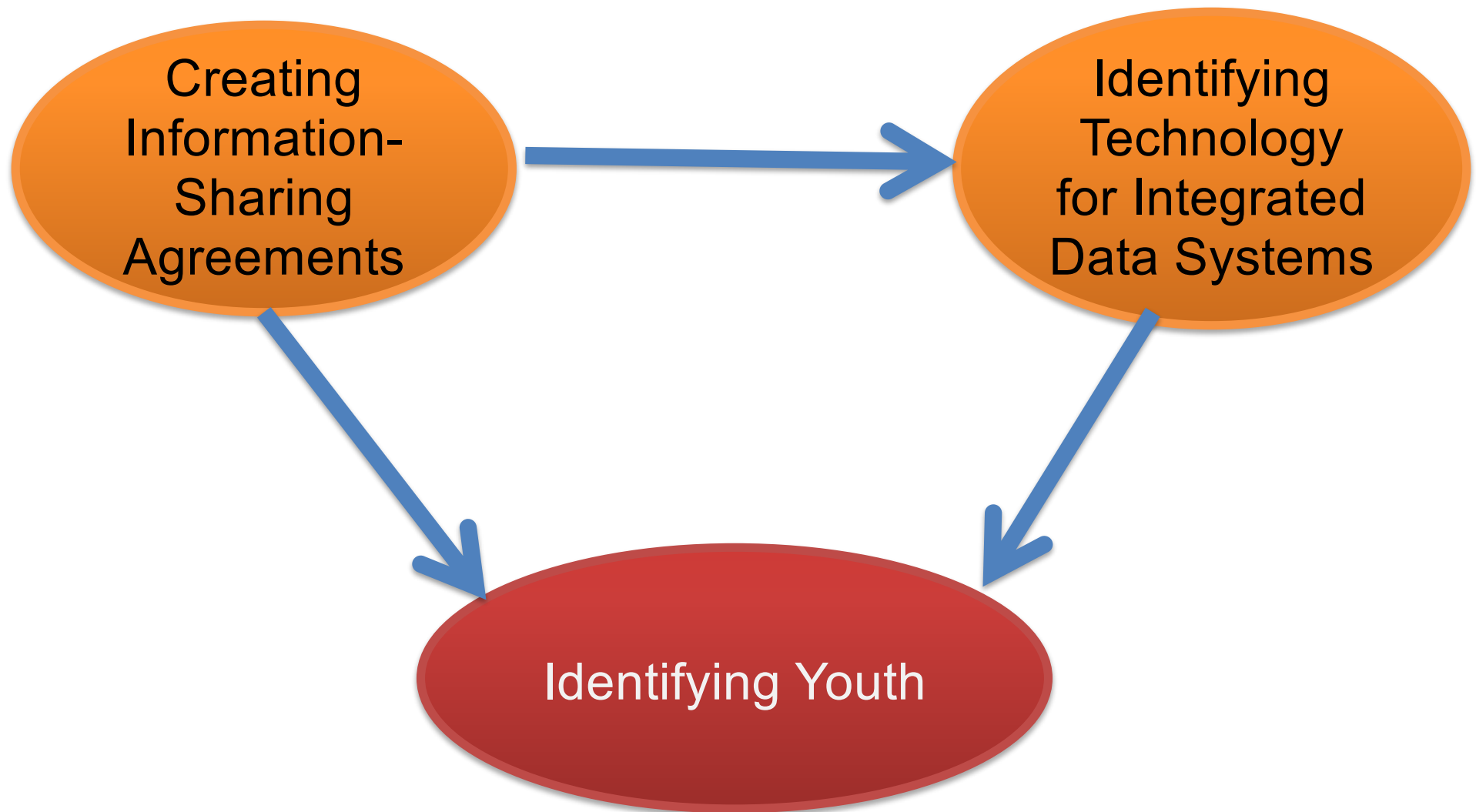
Integrated Data Systems

- Bifurcated systems (i.e., child welfare, State agency; juvenile justice, county agency; multiple school districts)
- Costly
- Concerns about data misuse

Identification of Youth

- No collaboration if we do not know whom the youth is connected to.

Trickle-Down Effect



Where Is Change Occurring?

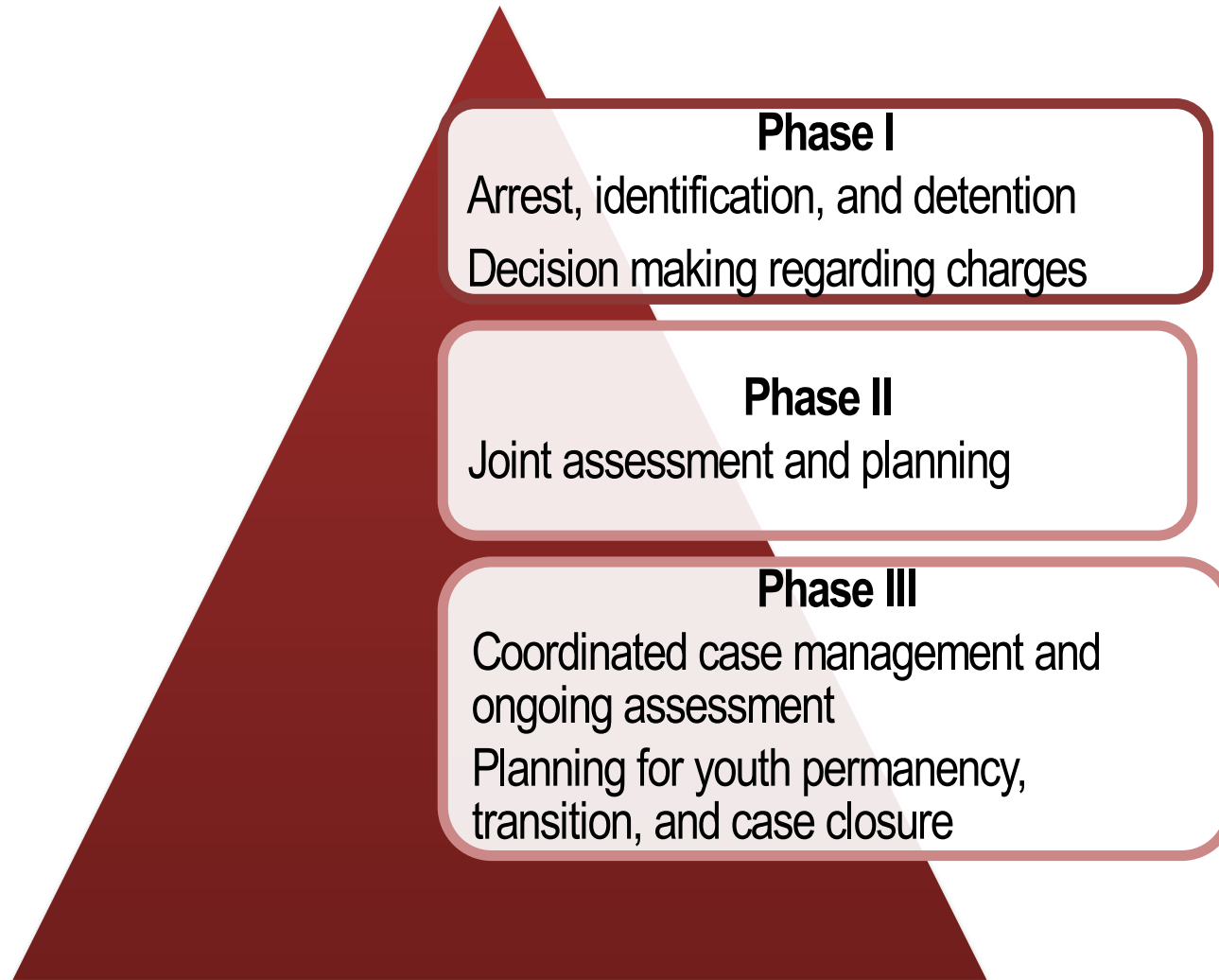
Where Is Change Occurring



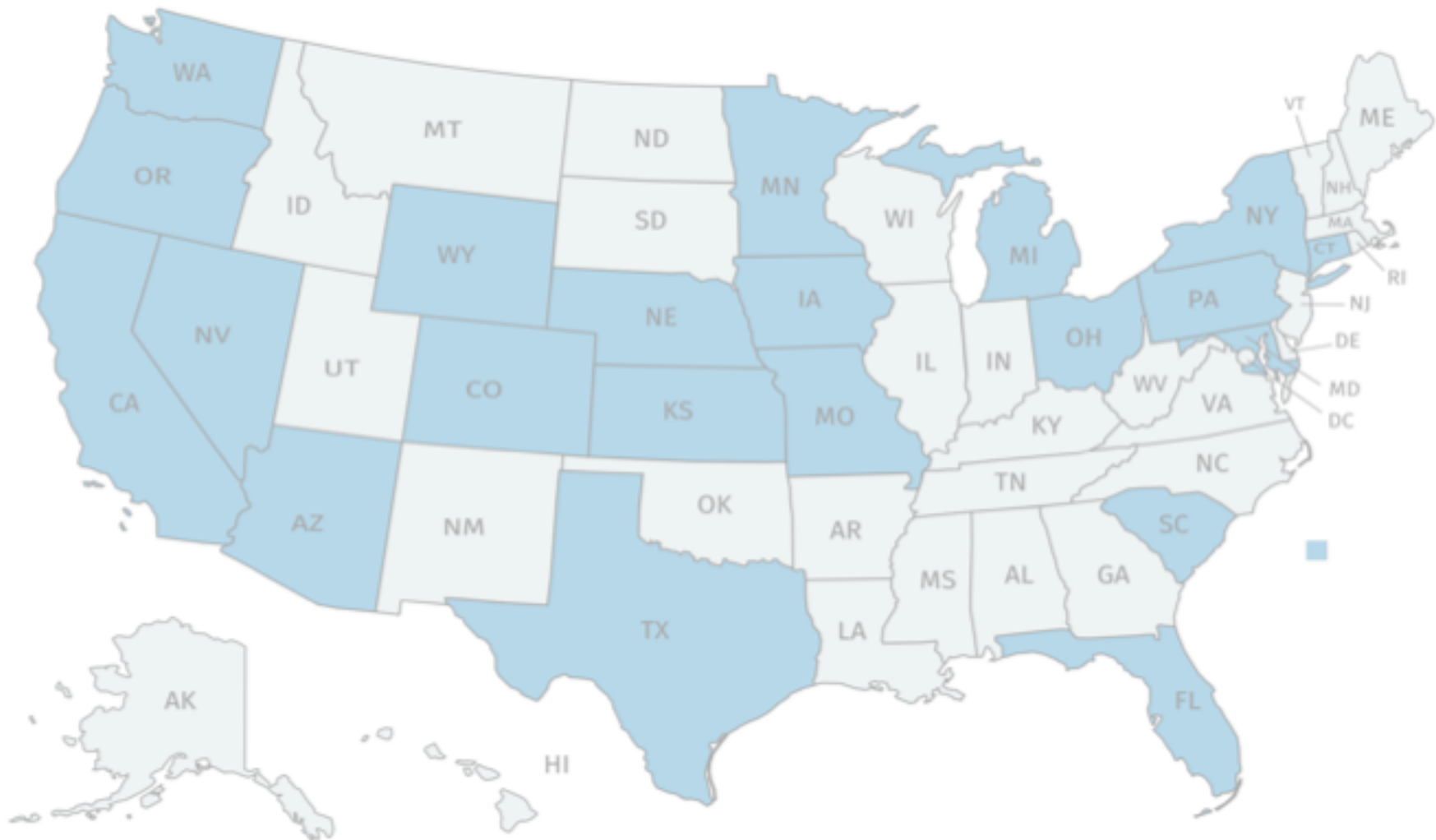
Values

- Identify the strengths of youth and families and treat them as individuals.
- Use data to make policy and practice decisions.
- Strengthen workforce efficacy.

CYPM Phases



CYPM Jurisdictions



CYPM Jurisdictions

Arizona

- Apache Co.
- Cochise Co.
- Coconino Co.
- Gila Co.
- Graham Co.
- Greenlee Co.
- La Paz Co.
- Maricopa Co.
- Mohave Co.
- Navaho Co.
- Pima Co.
- Pinal Co.
- Santa Cruz. Co.
- Yavapai Co.
- Yuma Co.

California

- Alameda Co.
- Los Angeles Co.
- Sacramento Co.
- San Diego Co.
- .

Colorado

- Alamosa Co.
- Broomfield Co.
- Conejos Co.
- Costilla Co.
- Denver Co.
- Douglas Co.
- Gunnison Co.
- Jefferson Co.
- Larimer Co.
- Mesa Co.
- Mineral Co.
- Morgan Co.
- Rio Grande Co.
- Saguache Co

Connecticut

- New London Co.

Florida

- Brevard Co
- Broward Co.
- Duval Co.
- Miami-Dade Co.
- Marion Co.
- Polk Co.
- Seminole Co.
- Volusia Co.

Iowa

- Woodbury Co.

Kansas

- Sedgwick Co.

Maryland

- Carroll Co.
- Harford Co.
- Howard Co.
- Montgomery Co.
- Prince George's Co.

Michigan

- Berrien Co.
- Genesee Co.
- Oakland Co.
- Wayne Co.

Minnesota

- Carver Co.
- Hennepin Co.
- Kandiyohi Co.
- Olmsted Co.
- Stearns Co.

Missouri

- Camden Co.
- Cass Co.
- Greene Co.
- Jefferson Co.
- Johnson Co.
- Laclede Co.
- Miller Co.
- Moniteau Co.
- Morgan Co.

Nebraska

- Dodge Co.
- Douglas Co.
- Gage Co.
- Lancaster Co.
- Sarpy Co.

Nevada

- Washoe Co.

New York

- Bronx Co.
- Kings Co.
- Monroe Co.
- New York Co.
- Queens Co.
- Richmond Co.

Ohio

- Carroll Co.
- Clarke Co.
- Cuyahoga Co.
- Franklin Co.
- Hamilton Co.
- Lucas Co.
- Mahoning Co.
- Montgomery Co.
- Ross Co.
- Stark Co.
- Summit Co.
- Trumbull Co.

Oregon

- Douglas Co.
- Jackson Co.
- Lane Co.
- Marion Co.
- Multnomah Co.
- Washington Co.

Pennsylvania

- Allegheny Co.
- Philadelphia Co.

South Carolina

- Berkley Co.
- Charleston Co.
- Georgetown Co.

Texas

- Bexar Co.
- Dallas Co.
- El Paso Co.
- Harris Co.
- McLennan Co.
- Tarrant Co.
- Travis Co.

Washington

- King Co.

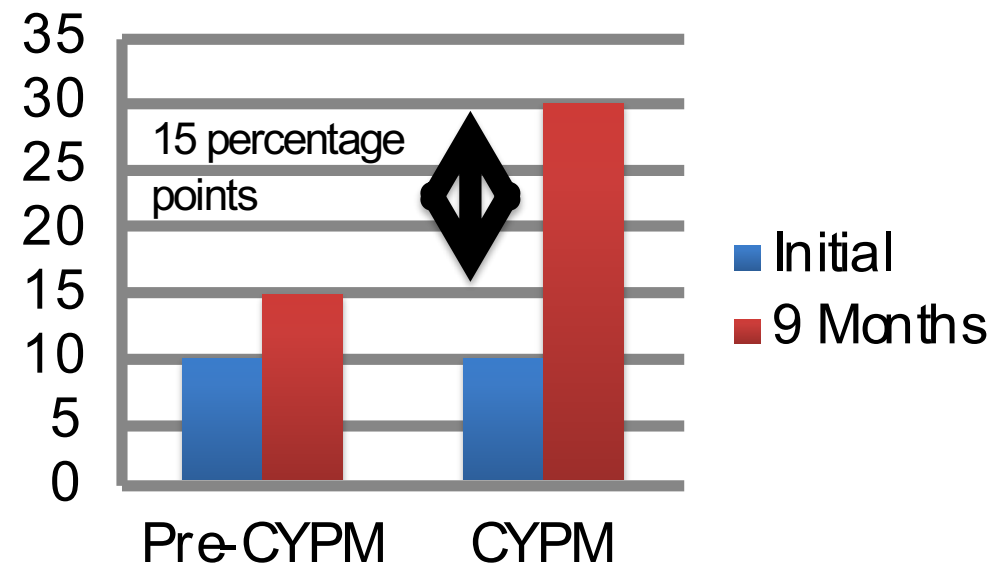
Wyoming

- Laramie Co.

Overview of Study

- A nonrandom data sample from 19 jurisdictions to implement the model ($N = 1,827$)
- Pathway 1 Youth Only ($n = 1,577$)
- Study youth included:
 - CYPM Youth: Youth who met a site's target population and were identified following the implementation of the model in a jurisdiction
 - Pre-CYPM Youth: Youth drawn historically from the year prior to data collection who met a site's target population
- Significance Test: A 10 percentage point improvement from pre-CYPM to post-CYPM.

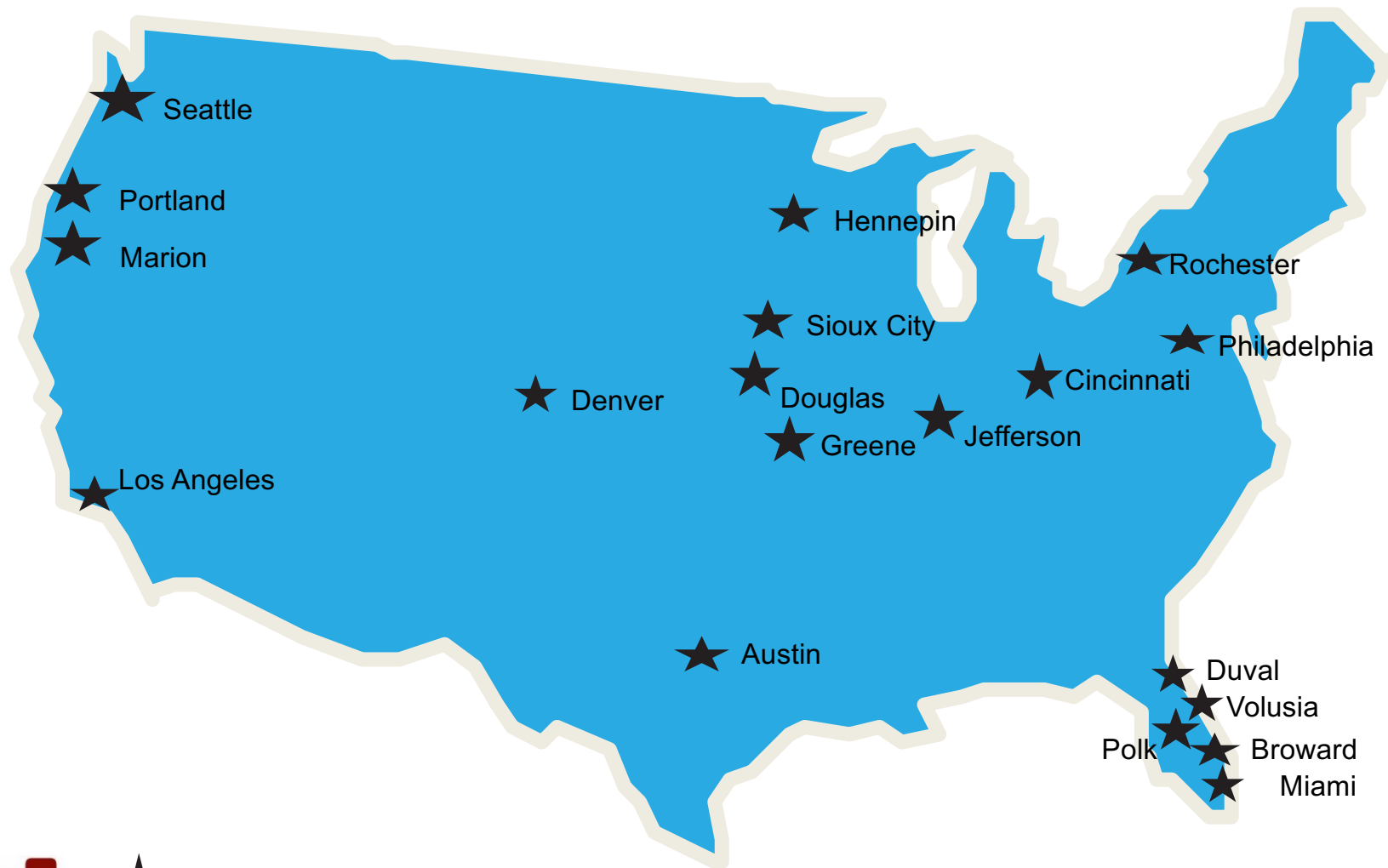
Example Pro-Social Data



CYPM Education Data Outcomes

Research on the Model

Characteristics of CYPM Sites (N = 19)



CYPM Sites: Showing Improvement in Educational Outcomes at Follow-Up

Increased
School
Attendance

Duval
Greene
Hennepin
Los Angeles

Improved Academic
Performance

Hamilton
Duval
Los Angeles
Marion
Seattle
Sioux City

Reduced Behavior
Problems at School

Austin
Hamilton
Duval
Marion
Rochester
Sioux City
Volusia

CYPM Sites: Showing Improvement in Behavioral Health at Follow-Up

Mental Health

Hamilton
Hennepin
Los Angeles
Miami Dade
Portland

Substance Use

Austin
Hamilton
Duval
Jefferson
Los Angeles
Polk
Portland
Rochester

Crossover Youth: State-Level Partnerships

- Arizona: Administrative Office of the Courts and Department of Child Safety
- Maryland: Department of Human Resources: Child Protective Services and Department of Juvenile Services
- Missouri: Children's Division, Office of State Court Administrators, Division of Youth Services
- Nebraska: Administrative Office of the Courts, Court Improvement Project, and Department of Health and Human Services

Important Understanding:

Are the youth-serving agencies bifurcated?

If so, how does this impact my outreach?

Identify What Is Happening in Your State

- Who do I connect with?
- When are they convening and for how long?
- Why are they convening (current focus)?
- What is my role?

Recommendations

What Should I Do Next?

Build Relationships

- Conduct outreach to child welfare, juvenile justice, and the family courts.
- Identify how these issues are being addressed at the state level:
 - Understand how youth “at risk” are defined by the agencies and identified at an aggregate level.

What Should I Do Next?

Formalize a Partnership

- Develop memorandum of understanding or collaborative agreements.
- Engage in strategic planning based on the developed agreement.

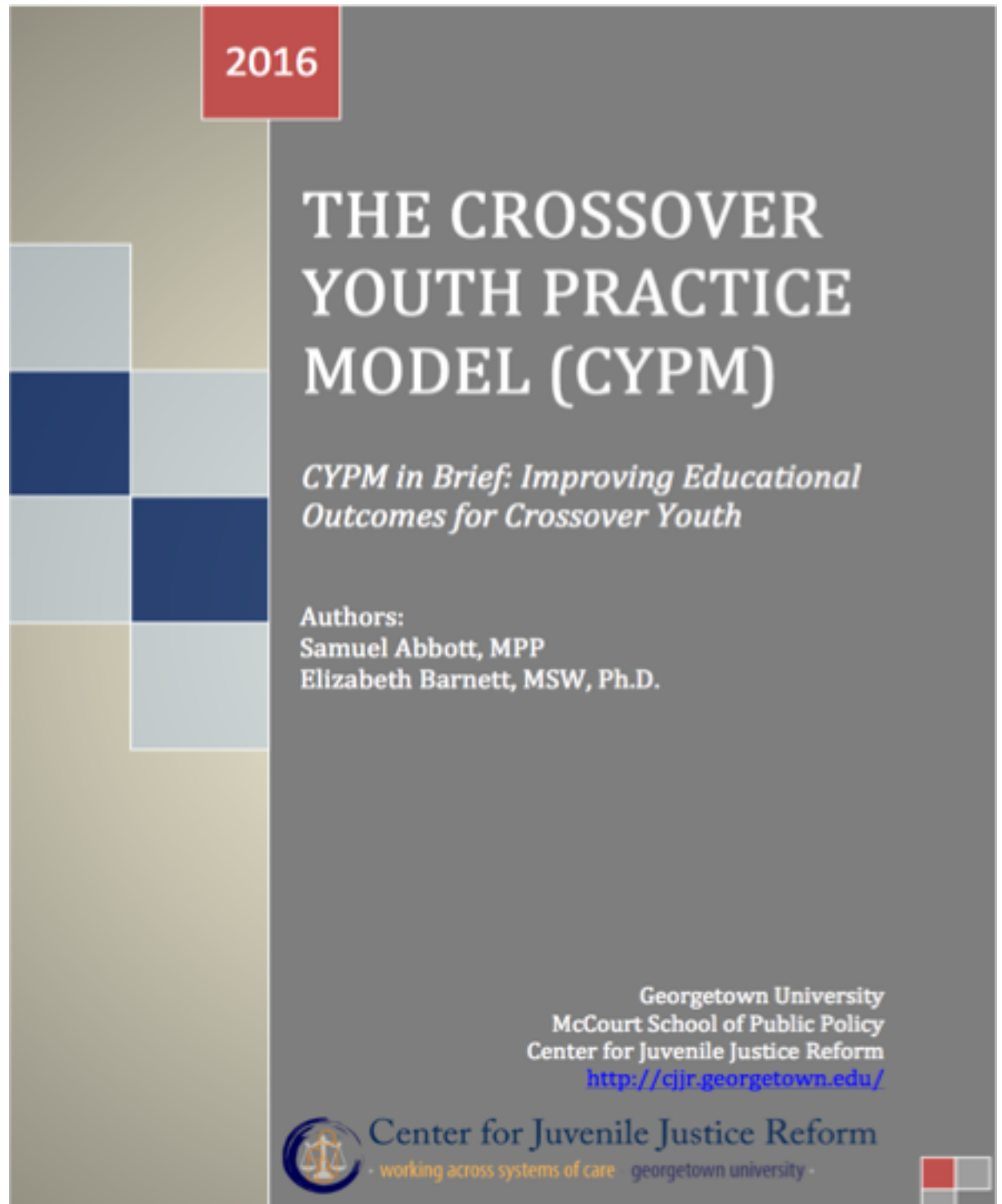
What Should I Do Next?

Leverage Resources and Respective Authority

- Identify what each entity brings to the table and how that can be leveraged as part of the collaborative work.
- Areas of mutual concern:
 - ✓ Academic achievement
 - ✓ School attendance
 - ✓ Discipline issues
 - ✓ Special education services
 - ✓ Confidentiality

Resources:

- **Center for Juvenile Justice Reform**
 - *Crossover Youth Practice Model*
 - *School-Justice Partnerships Certificate Program*
- **Juvenile Law Center**
 - *Information Sharing*
- **Legal Center for Foster Care and Education**
 - *Clearinghouse for foster care and education information*
- **OJJDP Center for Coordinated Assistance to States**
 - *Training and Technical Assistance Center*



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